

(b) distilling said lower phase to provide (i) a distillate comprising at least a portion of the most volatile compounds and (ii) a distillation bottoms comprising the diacids formed and the catalyst;

(c) separating the catalyst from the distillation bottoms;

(d) purifying the adipic acid in an aqueous solution, said purifying step consisting essentially of a reducing and/or an oxidizing purification treatment;

(e) crystallizing the adipic acid from water, preceding or following purification step (d), if crystallization has not been carried out in order to separate the catalyst from the distillation bottoms; and

(f) recrystallizing the adipic acid from water.